



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION III**  
**1650 Arch Street**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

Mr. Larry Lawson  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
629 Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Big Otter River TMDLs, Bedford and Campbell Counties

Dear Mr. Lawson:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, is pleased to approve the Big Otter River TMDLs. These TMDLs were submitted for EPA review on January 04, 2001. The TMDLs for Machine Creek, Elk Creek, Sheep Creek, Little Otter River, and Big Otter River were established and submitted in accordance with section 303 (d)(1)(c) and (2) of the Clean Water Act. These TMDLs were established to address an impairment of water quality as identified in Virginia's 1998 Section 303 (d) list. Virginia identified the impairment for these water quality-limited segments within the Big Otter River watershed based on exceedances of the fecal coliform water quality standard.

In accordance with Federal Regulations in 40 CFR §130.7, a TMDL must be designed to meet water quality standards, and (1) include, as appropriate wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point sources and load allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources, (2) consider the impacts of background pollutant contributions, (3) take critical stream conditions into account (the conditions when water quality is most likely to be violated), (4) consider seasonal variations, (5) include a margin of safety (which accounts for uncertainties in the relationship between pollutant loads and instream water quality), and be subject to public participation. The enclosure to this letter describes how the TMDLs for Machine Creek, Elk Creek, Sheep Creek, Little Otter River, and Big Otter River satisfy each of these requirements.

Following the approval of these TMDLs, Virginia shall incorporate them into the Water Quality Management Plan pursuant to 40 CFR § 130.7(d)(2). As you know, any new or revised National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations Systems (NPDES) permit must be consistent with the TMDLs Waste Load Allocation pursuant to 40 CFR §122.44 (d)(1)(vii)(B). Please submit all such permits to EPA for review as per EPA's letter dated October 1, 1998. Please feel free to contact Thomas Henry at 215-814-5752, if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hanmer, Director  
Water Protection Division

Enclosures